

Making a Difference with Business Watch

Neighborhood Watch, Block Watch, Town Watch, Crime Watch - whatever the name, it's one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. Business Watch fights the isolation that crime both creates and feeds upon. It forges bonds among area businesses, helps reduce burglaries and robberies, and improves relations between police and the communities they serve.

- Any community business can join.
- A few concerned businesses, a community organization, or a law enforcement agency can spearhead the effort to organize a Watch.
- Members learn how to make their business more secure, watch out for each other's businesses, and report activities that raise their suspicions to the police or sheriff's office.
- You can form a Watch group around any geographical unit: a block, park, business area, or offices.
- Watch groups are not vigilantes. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping other businesses. Business Watch helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address community concerns.

Forming a Business Watch is a challenge. Here are a few tips to get your group started.

- Select a coordinator and block captain who are responsible for organizing meetings and relaying information to members.
- Recruit members, keeping up-to-date on new businesses and making special efforts to involve

everyone.

- Contact the North Neighborhood Police Center for help in training members in business security, reporting skills and for information on local crime patterns.
- It's an unfortunate fact that when a business crime crisis goes away, so does enthusiasm for Business Watch. Work to keep your Watch group a vital force for community well being.
- Organize regular meetings that focus on current issues.
- Organize community patrols to walk or drive around streets to alert police to crime and suspicious activities and identify problems needing attention. For more information call (951) 826-5674.
- Adopt a park or school playground. Pick up litter, repair broken equipment, or paint over graffiti.
- Don't forget social events that give neighboring businesses a chance to meet with other businesses – a block party or a potluck.

If you are interested in organizing a Business Watch in your area, would like to have a CPTED survey conducted at your business location, or if you have any other concerns, please contact PSR Antoinette Alexander, for West and Central Policing Areas, at (951) 358-2700 or e-mail her at aalexander@riversideca.gov or contact PSR Petite Cunningham, for North and East Policing Area at (951) 353-7690 or e-mail her at pcunning@riversideca.gov.

See below for information about the next local Business Watch Meeting

We're Having a Meeting and You're Invited!



Business Watch Meeting

Date: February 22, 2007
At: Riverside Police Department
Magnolia Station Community Room
10540 Magnolia Avenue, Suite B
Time: 9 - 10 a.m.

Topic:

Court Room Procedures & Processing

Presented by the District Attorney's Office

BUSINESS BUZZ

Riverside's Untapped Resource

Contributed by Jeff Lambert
Business Services Manager for the Riverside Public Library



One of the things that I have always enjoyed about being a business librarian is the wide range of print, electronic and even virtual resources available at one's fingertips. This was never more evident than after visiting the Riverside Public Library for the first time. I had gone to the library to check out its business collection, and come back, duly impressed.

Entering the library, a large "Business Reference" sign proudly displays an extensive collection of excellent print directories including the Dun & Bradstreet Million Dollar Directory, Hoover's Handbook of American Businesses, Mergent (Moody's) U.S. Industrial Manuals and my personal favorite, Market Share Reporter. Adjacent to the directories, is a rather considerable "small business" collection on how to start and finance a business, how to write a business plan, franchising, working from home, and much more. The library also has access to some fine business databases, including Proquest News & Magazine, Reference USA, and ValueLine, all of which can be accessed for free by using your library card. The library databases, including our newest one, Live Homework Help (Tutor.com) can be found by visiting the following link: http://read.riversideca.gov/screens/resources_index.html. In the future,

more of our business print resources will be available in an electronic format, so they can be accessed remotely.

Also in the coming months, the Riverside Public Library Web site will be adding a business page, which will include links to local business resources and organizations, reviews of new business books and databases, annotated business webliographies and reference guides by subject (small business, consumer resources, California business etc.) and a schedule announcing future business programs, events and workshops open to everyone (see below for a list of free upcoming workshops). In addition, the business page will include a link where you can ask a business question, and or make a suggestion.

The world of business is a lot more complex today, and therefore not all questions can be easily answered by doing a quick "Google search". The Riverside Public Library is truly an untapped resource. Please stop by the library or give us a call. You will be surprised what a valuable resource we truly are!

Jeff Lambert can be reached at (951) 826-5212 or email jmlambert@riversideca.gov

Upcoming Workshops: (All located in Riverside Public Library Auditorium at 3581 Mission Inn Ave.)

Saturday, February 17, 2007 - 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Clutterology: How to Eliminate Clutter in Your Life and Get Organized
Saturday, February 17, 2007 - 2-5 p.m.	Self Publishing for the Clueless
Saturday, March 10, 2007 - 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Cashing in on Your Great Ideas: A Workshop for Inventors
Wednesday, March 14, 2007 - 5:30-8:30 p.m.	Developing a Winning Business Plan (SCORE workshop)

RDP Welcomes the following businesses to downtown Riverside

- City News Service Inc., 3638 University Ave. #238
- Gomez Tax Service, 3579 University Ave. #204
- Kassandra Barron, Hairstylist, 3828 Orange St.
- My Home & Loan, 3638 University Ave. #208
- Paramount Residential Mortgage Group Inc. 3600 Lime St.